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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. QUINN].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 18, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable JACK QUINN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We look at our world and too often we see distrust and strife, and yet we look elsewhere in our world and we see acts of kindness and deeds of good will. We live in our communities and are saddened by the strife of living and we also know people who work to strengthen our communities and build respect for every person. O gracious God, from whom comes the power for us to be people of good will, enable us to choose to be builders of character and models of integrity so we will contribute to the health of our Nation and strengthen the lives of those about us. Bless us today and every day, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. TIAHRT] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TIAHRT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 735) "An act to prevent and punish acts of terrorism, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 70-770, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints Mr. BREAUX to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, vice Mr. PRYOR.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain ten 1-minutes on each side.

DANGER OF A COMMUNIST COMEBACK TO THE WEST

(Mr. HYDE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, those of us who thought the end of the cold war ended the danger of communism to the West had better think again. The headline on the front page of the New York Times recently read "Fear of a Com-

munist Comeback Has Many in Russia Packing Bags."

With all our attention on the advance of communism in Russia, we have taken our eyes off the resurgence of Stalinist style communism that threatens elsewhere. Next Sunday, the Italian people go to the polls in what is their most important election, for they must make a basic choice: Will they select these Communists, no matter what name they call themselves, to rule their nation?

We may be appalled by the thought, but it is not difficult to achieve in this disordered political system. These are the facts: There are more than 20 political parties. The center right is projected to win 45 percent of the vote. The Communists under the banner of "Progressive Democrats of the Left" will have 21 percent. A union of members of the discredited parties of the past will add 14 percent. The Northern League will probably give its 5 to 7 percent to make it 40 percent.

That leaves the Stalinist Communist Refoundation Party with its 11 percent. They are the swing vote, and the left must join them if they want to rule. Thus, Stalinist Communists will write national policy.

This scenario played out in the recent election for mayor of Rome.

At issue in this campaign is electoral reform. The center right parties want an American Presidential-type government, elected directly by the people, not by the political parties. The Communists bitterly oppose. They are against it, they say, and hold on to your hats with this one, because it is not democratic.

I bring this to your attention because what happens in Italy has consequences for NATO, Europe, and ultimately the rest of the world.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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